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He said they have the building permit for the shell of the building and will come in tomorrow and get the Business License from the City. He said once Lon Windburn from Fortuna Fire District signs off on the project, that they are pretty much ready to turn the switch on and get things going. He noted that once things start moving, it would generate revenue for the City. He then offered to answer any questions or concerns from the Council, staff or the public.

Mayor Wilson suggested the Council hold any questions until the staff update.

**Tim Stack**, 1209 Eeloa Ave. addressed the Council regarding the recent mountain lion sightings in town and said the incident with the dogs that were attacked occurred behind his house. He said he doesn't want to create a panic but would like something done since his dog and other dogs in the neighborhood play in that area. He noted that his neighbor's dog was one of the dogs attacked and was euthanized. He said another neighbor walked the area on the river bar and found lion tracks with deer tracks behind them noting that the recent rains haven't washed the tracks away. He also noted that they found a possible temporary lion den at the river bar.

**Nick Angeloff** provided a brief update on Chamber of Commerce activities and events and announced that they were able to work with the property owner and the Chamber will remain at their current location until January; after that, they will have to see what happens.

**Julie Woodall** addressed the Council, said the woman that does gardening at the Triangle Park doesn't have a truck to haul away the weeds, and asked on her behalf if public works could go by and pick up the pile of weeds. She also asked if staff could contact Caltrans and request that they mow the area coming into town at Wildwood and Bellevue Ave.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

Motion was made by Johnson/Strahan to approve the consent calendar including approval of the minutes of the April 17, 2018 regular meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

## **REPORTS/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

### City Manager/Staff Update

City Manager Knopp referred to the staff update provided in the Council packet and said that staff was available to answer any questions the Council may have. He noted that Chief Conner was available to provide a verbal staff report.

He reminded the Council about the required Ethics Training and asked anyone who had not yet completed the online training to please log in and get it done.

Mayor Wilson asked for an update on the bridge closure.

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City Manager Knopp said that in talking with Caltrans, they feel the contractor can accelerate the schedule and get the bridge opened up by August 1, 2018 provided the weather cooperates and there is no further vandalism. He also reported that Caltrans did some clean-up efforts under the bridge and removed the homeless encampment.

He also reported that Caltrans reviewed the plans for the Active Transportation Plan (ATP) Project and had concerns regarding the pedestrian island at Bellevue and Wildwood Ave. and as a result, the island has been removed from the plans.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson asked if Caltrans is considering installing fencing under the bridge or other options to keep out the homeless encampments.

City Manager Knopp said that he had conversations with Caltrans and also sent a letter requesting some fencing modifications back in 2015 and recently brought the issue up again. He said they are aware that they are technically responsible for that area under the bridge and have agreed to work on some fencing in that particular area.

Chief Conner elaborated on the issue and said that he spoke to the project engineer and was told that they are considering putting in chain link fencing with cables.

He said regarding the mountain lion incident, on Friday, April 27, there was an incident with two (2) dogs, one of which was injured and as a result was euthanized. On Saturday, April 28, there was a sighting on the edge of the riparian vegetation on N. Pacific Ave. On Sunday, April 29, another sighting on the river bar 200 yards north of the trail that runs from N. Pacific to the river bar. He said since that time, there have been no reports of sightings. He noted that he has been in contact with Matt Wells from California Fish & Wildlife and their current policy is that unless a person is injured, they attempt to haze the animal and move it from civilization. He said they are currently investigating other possible avenues to see what else they can do. He added that he walked the area on the river bar between N. Pacific and Eeloa and seen some tracks that may or may not be mountain lion tracks and nothing that was fresh.

He also reported that on Friday, April 27, 2018 they served an inspection warrant at the old Eel River Sawmills office building. He noted that he served a warrant there approximately two (2) weeks prior and access to the building was denied. He said the second warrant allowed forced entry and what they found was an illegal commercial marijuana cultivation operation including processing and manufacturing of concentrates. He indicated that he is currently in the process of drafting an administrative violation order in which they will have 30 days to become legal. If they don't, he will seek an abatement warrant to remove the operation from the site.

Mayor Wilson asked if the Council or the public had any questions regarding the staff report.

**Julie Woodall** asked where the transients from under the bridge went; asked for an update on the three (3) properties identified under the nuisance abatement process; asked about this year's Measure Z funding; and asked if more small crimes were currently being committed.

She noted that someone on the Neighborhood Watch site claimed that crimes are occurring after 3:00 a.m. when there is no officer on duty.

Chief Conner commented that he didn't know where the transients went but that their truck was loaded to the top when they left. He said the City received Measure Z funding for continuation of the part-time clerical position who also works on code enforcement. He said as far as an increase in small crimes, there have been in the month of April, two (2) incidents that occurred before 3:00 a.m. involving cars being burglarized. He said there were more cars burglarized about a week ago so in that regard, there have more small crimes but nothing other than those incidents.

**Nick Angeloff** asked if the person who was served the warrant for the illegal marijuana operation was one of the current stakeholders/applicants at the Humboldt Rio Dell Business Park.

Chief Conner indicated that the property owner spoke with staff and inquired about the process to become legal but did not actually submit an application.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson asked Glenn White what the schedule is for installing the water line at the Humboldt Rio Dell Business Park.

Glenn stated that they would start construction of Building 3 in approximately two (2) weeks and immediately after the footings for Building 3 are complete, they will start construction of the water line. He noted that his crews are here to get as much done as possible and as quick as possible since they are not coming here for vacation. He estimated no more than two (2) months to complete the water line. When that is done, they will come back and do site improvements and try to get the foundation work done for Building 1. He said that even though the engineering is not done for Building 1, they could still get the building here so they can start construction the minute the engineering is done. He said they anticipate getting the metal buildings in May and June with construction of Building 1 the same time they are putting in the water line.

### **SPECIAL CALL ITEMS/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

#### Discussion and Possible Action on Election Dates for 2018

City Manager Knopp said that in order to submit a ballot measure on the November 6, 2018 General election, a resolution would need to be submitted to the County Board of Supervisors following the June 19, 2018 regular City Council meeting. He provided information regarding potential extension of Measure U, the City's local sales tax measure and asked for Council direction.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson supported the idea of placing a measure on the November ballot for the extension of Measure U and pointed out the additional cost of calling for a special election after December 2019 when the tax expires. Council concurred.

City Manager Knopp commented that staff would bring an updated version of the ordinance back to Council prior to the June 19, 2018 regular meeting.

## **ORDINANCES/SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS/PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### Approve Resolution No. 1387-2018 Awarding Bid for the 2018 Street Striping Project

City Manager Knopp provided a staff report and said the information on this item is the same information provided to the Council at the last meeting. He noted that the item was tabled to allow Council an opportunity to look at the bike lane on Wildwood Ave. before making a decision. He pointed out that the Council did appropriate \$20,000 in the current budget specifically for street striping.

Mayor Wilson asked how far up Wildwood Ave. the striping would go.

City Manager Knopp explained the additional bike lane striping would go from Monument Road to Columbus St., just past the post office.

Councilmember Garnes noted that there are a lot of businesses north of the post office and that it seems odd not to extend the striping further north on Wildwood.

City Manager Knopp commented that the striping could be extended to Davis St. if the Council wants to allocate additional funding to amend the scope of work.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson said the item was tabled to allow the Council the opportunity to look at the area and in his opinion it all needs to be done right away. He also agreed to extend the striping to Davis St. He noted that thermoplastic striping would be applied rather than paint, which is very durable and tends to last 5-10 times longer.

City Manager Knopp indicated that he could obtain a revised bid from the contractor.

Mayor Wilson called for public comment on the proposed resolution. There was no public comment received.

Motion was made by Johnson/Garnes to direct staff to obtain a revised bid from the contractor and bring it back to the Council with the applicable budget adjustment. Motion carried 5-0.

### Introduction and First Reading (by title only) of Ordinance No. 367-2018 to Recodify Chapter 5.40, Recreational Cannabis Sales to Chapter 5.45 of the Rio Dell Municipal Code (RDMC)

City Manager Knopp provided a staff report and explained that this ordinance is basically a clerical cleanup of the Rio Dell Municipal Code. He said there was an overlap in the terms of numbering the chapters and that there is no substantive change in the ordinance.

A public hearing was opened to receive public comment on the proposed ordinance. There being no public comment, the public hearing closed.



Motion was made by Johnson/Garnes to approve introduction and first reading of *Ordinance No. 367-2018 to Recodify Chapter 5.40, Recreational Cannabis Sales to Chapter 5.45 of the Rio Dell Municipal Code (RDMC)*. Motion carried 5-0.

#### **COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson reported on his attendance at upcoming meetings and said the League of California Cities Second Quarterly meeting would be held in Lakeport on Friday, May 4 and that ex-US Congressman Mike Thompson will be the guest speaker. He also said that he would be attending the Last Chance Grade Adhoc Committee meeting in Crescent City on Wednesday, May 9. He said that \$10 million has been allocated to Caltrans for environmental documents and drilling on a number of proposed locations for potential tunnels. He noted that the various options range from several hundreds of millions of dollars to a billion dollars to bypass the three (3) (+/-) stretch of roadway and all of the options have some sort of tunnel included in the plan.

Mayor Wilson reported on his attendance at the last Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA) meeting and announced that they are still looking for a public member from Rio Dell to serve on the committee. He said if anyone is interested, to let him know.

He also reported on the Redwood Region Economic Development Commission (RREDC) meeting and said they are doing a lot of work with the Film Commission and developing tourist trade. He mentioned the many movies filmed on the North Coast and suggested everyone go to the Film Commission site for the list.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Johnson/Garnes to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m. to the May 8, 2018 Budget Study Session beginning at 4:00 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

  
Frank Wilson, Mayor

Attest:

  
Karen Dunham, City Clerk